

Introduction

Whether you travel for business or pleasure, travel insurance is indispensable. It is as essential as your passport and air ticket.

Travel insurance gives you a comprehensive range of benefits that you may need when you are away from home. It is able to offer you a protection cover in one package for:

- Accidental death or permanent total disablement
- Medical expenses
- Personal liability to third party
- Baggage lost, damaged or delayed
- Money lost
- Travel cancellation due to serious accident or sickness
- Travel delay

Most insurers also provide a helpline, so that you can always get emergency assistance in case of need.

It only takes a little forethought to arrange appropriate travel insurance. The protection thus afforded will ensure peace of mind throughout your trip.



Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

21/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong

Tel : (852) 2867 2565

Fax : (852) 2869 0252

E-mail : iamail@oci.gov.hk

Website : <http://www.info.gov.hk/oci>

Travel Insurance

What you need to know



Travel Insurance — What you need to know

Questions & Answers



There are several important points you should consider when you make your travel insurance plans:

Where will you be travelling?

Insurance policies vary in the extent of their territorial cover and the related premiums, so you should check that all your planned destinations are included in your insurance policy. If you are only travelling within Asia, taking out an Asia-specific policy will be enough. Otherwise, you may well need a worldwide cover.

How long will your protection last?

You have to ensure that the protection period is long enough to cover your trip. If you are a frequent traveller, it is a good idea to find a type of policy that covers all your trips during a specific period, for example, six months or one year. This way, you will save the trouble of making repeated applications.

Will you be travelling with your family?

When you travel with small children, do check the details of your policy. Young children travelling with their parents may be covered jointly under a family plan at a reduced premium. When you travel with your aged parents, they need to arrange their own insurance. Do check the details of the policy such as the age limit and sum insured of accidental death and disablement for aged parents and small children.

Do you have to share any of the losses?

As with many other types of insurance, you may be required to bear a small portion of the losses.

Are there any exclusions?

Travel insurance does not cover all risks, and each item of coverage may be subject to general and specific exclusions. Do check the details of your policy. There is a standard list of general exclusions, for instance war, illegal act, professional sports, childbirth, pre-existing condition or pre-arranged medical treatment. If you love adventurous and amateur sports, such as water-skiing or mountaineering, you should ensure that such activities in your trip are covered. In case of doubt, you should seek clarification from the insurer or its insurance agents.

Which protection items I need to pay special attention to?

Medical expenses in Europe and the United States are relatively more expensive. You may need sufficient coverage in this aspect under your travel insurance plan. When travelling to countries with poor road safety or medical services, your insurer's emergency assistance will give you great help when an accident occurs.

Is it necessary for me to bring the insurance policy?

It is advisable for you to bring either the original insurance policy or its photocopy when you go abroad. A copy of the insurance information leaflet containing a brief outline of the protection and the insurer's helpline is also useful.

What should I do if I have an accident during the trip?

You should immediately inform the authorities concerned, such as the police, the airline and the travel agency, so as to put the case on record. You should also keep all the relevant documents, such as the record of reporting to the police, certificate from the doctor and official receipts for the purchase of daily necessities to facilitate the future processing of insurance claims.

What should I do if I accidentally cause injury to other people or damage their property?

In this case, you should inform the insurer at once through its helpline. The insurer will tell you what to do. Notwithstanding that most travel insurance policies cover liability to pay compensation for accidental injury or property damage caused to other people during the trip, you should ensure that your insurance plan provides this cover.

In a nutshell, what should I pay specific attention to when taking out travel insurance?

You should see whether the travel insurance plan meets your specific need. Don't just look at the premium amount. Travel insurance products vary widely in their coverage and exclusions. Do make sure you know the exact extent of protection you are buying and disclose to your insurer all required information accurately and honestly.